

*I think this needs a
lot of study. It appears to
me to be going in wrong direction*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Coordination of Satellite and Space Vehicle Operations



The views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff regarding the coordination of satellite and space vehicle operations as contained in Joint Chiefs of Staff memorandum 283-59 dated 24 July 1959 have been considered.

This subject was also discussed with the members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering on 13 August 1959 and 3 September 1959.

The Director of Defense Research and Engineering considers that the numbers of satellite vehicles to be launched and the numbers of satellites expected to be in orbit in any one period over the next several years will not be large. Nevertheless, the advent of military satellite and space vehicle systems has national security implications which emphasize the need for over-all control and coordination of the military activity pertaining thereto.

The establishment of a joint military organization with control over operational space systems does not appear desirable at this time. The utilization of the present organization of the Military Departments appears preferable in order to realize full advantage from existing support capabilities, to eliminate conflicting research and development interests and responsibility, and to simplify fiscal accounting.



Although the research and development leading to the demonstration of operational feasibility will continue to be the responsibility of the Advanced Research Projects Agency for the time being, it appears desirable at this time to begin the development of a plan for the orderly transfer of space projects to the appropriate military departments. This transfer will normally be made during the development phase at an appropriate time to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

Satellite and space vehicle operations will be assigned to the appropriate military department after consideration of the primary interest or special competence of the respective service. Where no one military department has primary interest or special competence, consideration will be given to special competency in associated fields of development.

The responsibility for the development, production and launching of space boosters and the necessary systems integration incident thereto, as approved by the Secretary of Defense, will be assigned to the Department of the Air Force except for such research and development as may be conducted by ARPA.

The specific assignment of the payload for space and satellite systems will be assigned separately to the appropriate military department which, in addition to budgeting for the payload, will also budget and reimburse the Department of the Air Force for the necessary boosters, launching vehicles and other unique equipment required in launching and necessary systems integration.

The following specific assignments for payload development and payload research and development support and production improvement are approved:

- (a) Interim satellite early warning system -- Air Force.
- (b) Phase I of satellite reconnaissance system -- Air Force.
- (c) Interim satellite navigation system -- Navy.
- (d) Interim satellite communications system -- Army.

The date of transfer of the above-listed systems from the Advanced Research Projects Agency will be approved by the Secretary of Defense upon the recommendation of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. Assignment of other systems that may be developed will be determined later.

Prior to assuming responsibility for a particular satellite and space vehicle program, the appropriate military department will submit to the Secretary of Defense for approval detailed plans for the system including user relationships with the Unified and Specified Commands and other appropriate agencies. The Secretary of Defense will refer such plans to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for comment and recommendation.

The Director of Defense Research and Engineering will review and approve the detailed research and development programs in the space and satellite field utilizing where appropriate the support of the Advanced Research Projects Agency in order to insure the most efficient

and effective utilization of the Department of Defense resources in this field. Particular attention should be given to the desirability of incorporating, where practicable, more than one payload or system in a particular satellite.